ployed to keep free from ſpot, not as a virtue, but to preſerve their ſtation in the world.

To prove the truth of this remark, I need only advert to the intrigues of married women, particularly in high life, and in countries where women are ſuitably married, according to their reſpective ranks, by their parents. If an innocent girl become a prey to love, ſhe is degraded for ever, though her mind was not polluted by the arts which married women, under the convenient cloke of marriage, practiſe; nor has ſhe violated any duty—but the duty of reſpecting herſelf. The married woman, on the contrary, breaks a moſt ſacred engagement, and becomes a cruel mother when ſhe is a falſe and faithleſs wife. If her huſband has ſtill an affection for her, the arts which ſhe muſt practiſe to deceive him, will render her the moſt contemptible of human beings; and, at any rate, the contrivances neceſſary to preſerve appearances, will keep her mind in that childiſh, or vicious, tumult, which deſtroys all its energy. Beſides, in time, like thoſe people who habitually take cordials to raiſe their ſpirits, ſhe will want an intrigue to give life to her thoughts, having loſt all reliſh for pleaſures

pleaſures that are not highly ſeaſoned by hope or fear.

Sometimes married women act ſtill more audaciouſly; I will mention an inſtance.

A woman of quality, notorious for her gallantries, though as ſhe ſtill lived with her huſband, nobody choſe to place her in the claſs where ſhe ought to have been placed, made a point of treating with the moſt inſulting contempt a poor timid creature, abaſhed by a ſenſe of her former weakneſs, whom a neighbouring gentleman had ſeduced and afterwards married. This woman had actually confounded virtue with reputation; and, I do believe, valued herſelf on the propriety of her behaviour before marriage, though when once ſettled, to the ſatisfaction of her family, ſhe and her lord were equally faithleſs, —ſo that the half alive heir to an immenſe eſtate, came from heaven knows where!

To view this ſubject in another light.

I have known a number of women who, if they did not love their huſbands, loved nobody elſe, give themſelves entirely up to vanity and diſſipation, neglecting every domeſtic duty; nay, even ſquandering away all the money which ſhould have been ſaved for